

I am upset that channel 40, ABC TV, here in Springfield, Massachusetts, is using the public airwaves to broadcast clearly biased and partisan attack propaganda in an attempt to influence the upcoming presidential election. This is an unfair use of the public airwaves and a betrayal of the public interest. When I telephoned channel 40 here in Springfield, Massachusetts, the young man who answered the phone told me that the station had no choice but to air the propaganda because the decision was made by Sinclair.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.